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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# **WARRANTS ISSUED FOR INDICTED FRAUD RING**

**PHOENIX** -- The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on September 24, 2004, arrest warrants were issued based on the return of a 32-count indictment by a federal grand jury in Phoenix against Kenneth Ronald Foster, DOB 7/22/1967; Noel Anthony Begley, DOB 3/18/1967; Yaughn Marcellus Robinson, DOB 6/15/1975; Azizi Renee McNeill, DOB 3/15/1978; Arbuary Daniel Fuller, DOB 3/6/1969; Toussaint Omar Walton, DOB 10/26/1969; and Leon Miguel Swan, DOB 10/6/1973, all of whom are believed to be residents of Calif.

The indictment alleges that between June 2000 and April 2001, the defendants used a combination of their true names, false names and false social security numbers to obtain Arizona Identification Cards containing photographs of themselves from the Arizona Motor Vehicle Division. The defendants used the fraudulent identification cards to open 17 checking accounts with various branches of local banks, which then mailed an initial order of checks to the defendants for use with each of the new accounts. Approximately, \$2,000 was deposited into each bank account usually on a Friday. The defendants then, on the ensuing weekends, would

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write numerous checks, each in an amount of less than approximately \$1,500 as part of a shopping spree at various merchants in the greater Phoenix metropolitan area. The money would then be withdrawn from the checking account on the following Monday, and all the checks written against the account would be rejected for payment by the bank because of insufficient funds in the account. The indictment identifies in excess of \$100,000 in fraudulent checks were used to obtain merchandise through the scheme. The defendants then refunded the items purchased with the fraudulent checks and distributed the refund money among themselves. Arrest warrants have issued for all the defendants.

The federal indictment charges all the defendants with violating Title 18, U.S. Code, Section 1341, Mail Fraud; Title 18, U.S. Code, Section 371, Conspiracy to Commit an Offense Against the United States; and Title 42, U.S. Code, Section 408(a)(7)(b), Fraudulent Use of a Social Security Number

A conviction for each count of the indictment carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by agents of the FBI and the Glendale Police Department.

The prosecution is being handled by Richard I. Mesh Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-04-0373-PHX-JAT  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2004-161

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